

The Role of the LRCC in the Global War on Terrorism

The logistics readiness control center has proved to be an effective mechanism that ensures oversight of critical logistics information and functions.

by LtCol Hank Malanowski

The global war on terrorism (GWOT) has put enormous strains on the entire logistics infrastructure of the Marine Corps and Supporting Establishment. A key challenge to logistics decision-makers is maintaining a comprehensive situational awareness of the strategic, operational, and tactical logistical environment. The Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (DC I&L) has vested this responsibility in the Logistics Readiness Coordination Center or LRCC. The LRCC's mission is to support the DC I&L by acting as the focal point for monitoring, identifying, filtering, coordinating, processing, and resolving logistics issues affecting Marine Corps forces in times of emergency, increased tension, open hostilities, or exercises.

chain management and distribution support to the warfighter.

During OEF/OIF, the LRCC tracked the:

- Movement of Marines to the area of operations.
- Allocation of aircraft and cargo to combat and combat service support (CSS) units.
- Status of all classes of supply, maintenance levels, combat equipment losses, "remain behind equipment," principal end item production line inventories, and a variety of other logistics issues.

Recently, the LRCC has focused on the continuing deployment/redeployment of forces; the readiness, reconstitution, and regeneration of equipment, assisting the Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC)-directed Strategic Ground Equipment Work-

porting Establishment in conducting strategic logistics support while processing and coordinating information with Marine Corps Operating Forces, Marine Corps Reserve, joint staff, and the supported or supporting combatant commander.

The LRCC is a Reserve capability sustained in peacetime by Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) Detachment members and activated during periods of high operations tempo and/or national emergency. The detachment is staffed by a seasoned cadre of professional logisticians required to maintain technical competence in using logistics tools and systems, such as the Marine Corps equipment readiness information tool, joint operation planning execution system, single mobility system, and the global transportation network.

When the LRCC is activated for 24-hour operations by the DC I&L, the IMA LRCC director reports to the Assistant DC I&L for Logistics Plans, Policies, and Strategic Mobility Division for duty. The LRCC director establishes individual watch teams with detachment members and active duty Marines until fully staffed by mobilized reservists. The I&L IMA Detachment's mission is to operate the LRCC for extended periods. The LRCC consists of an operations officer and rotating watch teams operating on a 24/7 basis. It supports the HQMC Crisis Response Center that is under the aegis of the

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To support logistics requirements for Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, the Marine Corps activated the LRCC. In January 2003 it was activated again to support Operations ENDURING FREEDOM/IRAQI FREEDOM (OEF/OIF). It functions as a 24/7 collection point of critical logistics information and continuously monitors all logistics functions—supply, maintenance, transportation, general engineering, health services, and services across the strategic, operational, and tactical elements. The LRCC provides the critical information requirements to facilitate supply

ing Group in addressing home station equipment shortfalls; and monitoring vehicle-hardening efforts.

As the CSS advocate, I&L is responsible for ensuring that Marine Corps forces possess the necessary CSS capabilities to meet mission requirements. The LRCC is the only Marine Corps capability available at the strategic level to provide detailed, cogent, and timely logistics information to key HQMC decisionmakers and to facilitate communications flow. This Herculean effort spans the entire logistics continuum. The LRCC assists HQMC and the Sup-

DC, Plans, Policies, and Operations. Team members act as action officers and integrate into daily functions of the logistics plans and operations team (LPO-1).

Information is gleaned from unit/command Marine Forces situation reports, message traffic, combatant command web sites, intelligence reports, and liaison with Military Services agencies, such as Marine Corps Logistics Command, U.S. Transportation Command, Military Sealift Command (MSC), Marine Corps Systems Command, Defense Logistics Agency, and other



Maj Jim Kobbins and SSgt Tate Allison review key logistics information in the LRCC. (Photo courtesy of LPO-1, HQMC.)

external and internal agencies. These sources are the basis used to create dynamic and value-adding information products that fulfill Marine Corps decisionmaker essential elements of information (EEI). They also provide situational awareness of the logistics stance of the Marine Corps, anticipate impediments to combat operations, and provide assistance in devising solutions.

During the GWOT, the LRCC has evolved into a comprehensive and integrated coordinating activity for logistics issues. The LRCC maintains continual design and refinement of information products that fulfill commander's critical information requirements and EEIs. Some key information products developed and refined by the LRCC are:

- Force closure and major unit movement summaries complete with flight information, departure, and arrival times.
- Event chronologies.
- Locations of forces/logistics re-supply points.
- Maritime prepositioning force (MPF) dispositions for all three MPF squadrons.
- Status of all MSC shipping supporting worldwide operations.

The Greater Washington Area Chapter of the International Society of Logistics recognized the LRCC as Logistics Team of the Year in 2003 for its unique and invaluable operational role during OEF/OIF. The LRCC won the category reflecting

achievements for monitoring the deployment and redeployment of more than 282,000 Marines and transportation of more than 5.1 million tons of material by more than 1,400 strategic airlift sorties and 90 sea missions comprising over 20 amphibious ships and 35 MSC vessels.

The LRCC continues to provide critical logistics information to Marine Corps decisionmakers to facilitate supply chain management and end-to-end distribution to the warfighter. The LRCC's unique capability builds on information from various Marine Corps components and spans the strategic, operational, and tactical elements of the logistics continuum. The analysis, interpretation, and integration of this information provide an invaluable service to the Marine Corps for supporting the GWOT.

For additional information on the LRCC, visit the web site at <<http://www.hqmc.usmc.smil.mil/IL/lrcc.htm>> or e-mail the program's senior watch officer at <lrcc_swo@hqmc.usmc.smil.mil>.



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